

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of interpreting data input to an electronic form-based data entry system, including the steps of, performed in a processing system:
receiving movement data from a moveable optically imaging pen, the movement data associated with a particular field of an electronic form and being generated by the pen based on optical imaging and movement of the moveable pen within a corresponding particular field of a printed form associated with the electronic form;
determining one or more possible variables of information content in the movement data by applying at least one handwriting algorithm to the movement data; and
determining a preferred variable of the information content by utilising ~~at least one parameter a field identity~~ associated with the particular field of the electronic form and a probability value assigned to each of the possible variables of information content within a dictionary associated with the field identity; and
if the determined probability value is below a certain value, determining the preferred variable by utilising a probability value assigned to each of the possible variables of information content within a dictionary not associated with the field identity.
2. - 3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein determining the preferred variable of the information content is performed contemporaneously with receiving the movement data.
5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the moveable input device is a pen-like device.
6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein determining the possible variables of information content utilises stroke information contained within the movement data.
7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 7~~claim 1 wherein, certain entries in ~~the either~~ dictionary are assigned a higher probability of being the preferred variable of the information content.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 7~~claim 1, wherein the particular field of the electronic form is a name field and the dictionary associated with the field identity includes an indication of gender associated with selected names.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particular field of the electronic form is an address field having sub-fields arranged hierarchically such that the preferred variable of the information content in a sub-field may be used to constrain possible variables of information content in another sub-field.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particular field of the electronic form is a telephone number field and the possible variables of information content are constrained to include only numerals.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particular field of the electronic form is a credit card number field and the possible variables of information content are constrained to include only a fixed number of numerals, the numerals being further verifiable by use of a checksum.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the particular field of the electronic form from the set including: zip/post code; country; date; email address; or language.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electronic form is implemented using one of the standardized file formats: HTML, XML, PDF or XForms.

15.- 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a field mask is associated with the particular field of the electronic form, the field mask used to check that a possible variable of information content conforms with a predefined string pattern.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a possible variable of information content is derived from a selection list, or combination list, involving previously determined preferred variables.

19.(Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the printed form is a paper-based interface provided with coded markings.

20.(Original) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the coded markings are a pattern of infrared markings.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each electronic form is uniquely identified and stored on a network server.

23. – 24. (Cancelled)